



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### USNORTHCOM Surgeon's One Health Conference

Colorado Springs, CO

14-15 June 2011

In June 2011, the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), with support from the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) and the Center for Disaster and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine (CDHAM) sponsored a conference on the concept of "One Health", or the inter-relationship between human health, animal health, and the environment. The goal of this 2-day conference was to promote One Health awareness, international communication, and multidisciplinary collaboration among civilian and military health professionals.

The objectives of the conference were to:

- Inform participants on respective nations' infectious disease surveillance programs and international reporting requirements.
- Discuss emerging infectious disease threats of North America and the Caribbean.
- Increase One Health awareness and dialogue among human, animal, and public health professionals.
- Facilitate planning and preparedness synchronization between civilian and military health organizations.
- Promote international collaboration, cooperation and communication in infectious disease preparedness and response.

The conference was attended by approximately 100 individuals from across North America and the Caribbean. Public health and animal health agencies of Mexico (Protección Civil, Secretariat of Health (SALUD), and Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA), Canada (Public Health Agency of Canada and Canadian Food Inspection Agency), the Bahamas (Ministry of Health), and the United States (HSS, CDC, FDA, USDA, and DOS) participated. Foreign military participants included Canadian Forces, and Mexico's SEDENA and SEMAR. International public health representatives were drawn from the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health.

The conference was organized into 3 half-day blocks, each with a central theme. The themes included human infectious disease biosurveillance, animal infectious disease biosurveillance, and emerging "One Health" diseases affecting North America and the Caribbean. Each session was followed by a panel discussion, which resulted in enthusiastic and productive exchanges between the conference participants and panel experts.

Participants left the event pledging to integrate One Health concepts into their own organizational missions and seek ways to collaborate and share information with their stakeholders, partner agencies and international neighbors. The conference provided a venue for USNORTHCOM to build closer ties with military medical colleagues in Canada and Mexico; reinforce the importance of both early biosurveillance sharing and synchronized interagency planning among all four participating countries; and forge new relationships with the food and agriculture sectors of Canada and Mexico. Future engagements will continue with the One Health concept, building upon the theme and exchange generated at this conference.